

I am a 42 year old independent conservative. Like many my age, I grew up educated in the ways that our political system provided for a free society. I have taken this as an article of faith for many years. Many events recently have profoundly shaken this faith in the continued viability of our system. Looming large among these events has been the actions of Sinclair broadcasting in its plan to preempt its local televised programming in order to influence the outcome of the election in favor of George Bush. The former Soviet Union consolidated its dictatorial power over its people largely through information control. I believe the cold war was a necessary struggle to prevent this sort of thing happening, here and around the world. It may be argued that this is a matter of free speech. This is an invalid red-herring argument, much like the sort of thing a person can read about in the George Orwell book, "Animal Farm." This book details how the Soviet system arose making misleading proclamations in the name of the people, while ultimately planning the subjugation of its people. This is why I am a conservative, but unaffiliated voter. The hijacking of the press,

through media consolidation, in order to benefit any party or special interest, exclusively, is wrong. It is like hijacking an aircraft, an aspect of our freedom to travel, in order to serve the purposes of others who have an interest in undermining our freedom. This sort of freedom is the ONLY thing which has ensured our nations vast advantages and the viability of our potential for future progress. We must not allow even seemingly "innocent" steps, by our media, toward the sort of information control exemplified by the former Soviet press. We must appose this sort of illegitimate consolidation of power, by ANY party, or special interest.